

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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73

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 IO-12 NIC-01 RSR-01 /119 W
----- 042362

P R 261119 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3814

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

CDR JCRC NKP

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 3209

U/ PW FOR SIEVERTS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: USPWS/ MIAS LAOS - AP CORRESPONDENT' S INTERVIEW WITH
SOTH PHETRASY

AP CORRESPONDENT DENNIS NEELD (BRITISH SUBJECT) TRANSMITTED TO
EMBOFF TRANSCRIPT OF HIS INTERVIEW WITH LPF PERMREP SOTH PHETRASY
ON 25 APRIL. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING USPWS/ MIAS ARE
TRANSMITTED VERBATIM AS THEY TEND TO SOLIDIFY SOTH' S CURRENT
STANCE ON THIS SUBJECT.

Q: MORE THAN 300 AMERICANS ARE LISTED AS MISSING IN LAOS. IS IT
POSSIBLE THAT THERE MAY BE MORE PRISONERS IN REMOTE AREAS ABOUT
WHICH YOU PREVIOUSLY KNEW NOTHING?

A: IT IS NOT POSSIBLE. FIRST OF ALL, WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE YOUR
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LISTS. ALL WHO WERE CAPTURED HAVE BEEN RELEASED. THEY CAME TO MASSACRE US AND WE HAD TO DEFEND OURSELVES. IF THEY REACHED THE GROUND ALIVE, THEY COULD STILL DIE WITHOUT EVER BEING FOUND. BUT IF THEY WERE CAPTURED, THEY WERE RELEASED. IF THEY HAD WANTED TO STAY ALIVE, THEY SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN THE UNITED STATES.

Q: ONLY NINE WERE RELEASED. THAT IS A VERY LOW PERCENTAGE COMPARED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF NORTH VIETNAM. IS THERE ANY EXPLANATION FOR THIS?

A: THAT WAS THEIR FATE... IF THEY WERE UNLUCKLY. T

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENTI03209
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730455/aaaazuz.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION DPW
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980205
Subject: USPWS/ MIAS LAOS - AP CORRESPONDENT' S INTERVIEW WITH SOTH PHETRASY
TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, LA
To: BANGKOK
CDR JCRC NKP
CINCPAC
DPW
PARIS
SAIGON
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005